

South Hadley Bike-Walk Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Presented by Recreation Director Andrew Rogers

Roll Call: Committee members: Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley, Natasha Anderson, Ruth Camuse and Recreation Director Andy Rogers. Excused: Chris Bassett, Marilyn Gass, Steven Lachowetz, and Pamela Peck. Guest: N/A

Meeting began at 6:35pm.

The minutes from August 14, 2021 were discussed. They were corrected to reflect that MG would be reaching out to Leslie from the COA and not RC. Approved as amended 4-0. LD/LF.

RC reviewed her proposals for a trek centered around the new COA/Woodlawn Field. There were five total options, varying in length and different neighborhoods. There were discussions about all the options, including the challenges faced with hills, street crossing, sidewalks, and other factors. Once more details are known about what the day will include, a decision will be made on which one is best. LD said they have bottled water leftover from the summer concert at Buttery Brook and it was suggested that the committee have cookies or other snacks for the event.

Other popular treks were brought up with the sugar shack, MHC, river to range trail, Ledges, the falls/library, and many others. They focused on fall and spring treks where bugs and ticks were minimal and avoided December and January due to the holidays and snow/ice. It was also suggested that maybe the fishway would be a good one to include. An unofficial schedule was discussed:

- October: COA
- November: MHC: NA to reach out to students at MHC to see if they could lead a trek there.
- December – January: Off
- February: Ledges
- March: TBA

RC asked a question about the committee being able to see plans for future roadway projects and how those can be communicated. AR added how many of the projects work. For example, the Route 116 project falls under Mass Highway, while the Lyman Street project fell under the town and a different engineer. The COA project had its own engineers. So how they all tie into each other, is not often without issues. It was suggested that maybe Chris Bouchard from the DPW attend a future meeting. AR/LD suggested that by looking at the Town Administrator reports and other agendas, you will be able to see a lot of what is going on in town.

LD did note that we are a Complete Streets Community, and they have adjusted new road projects with biking and walking in mind. He said that East Street was narrowed, which has slowed down traffic and all other projects on the main roads have included bike lanes. It was also noted that the speed signs are up all over town, with solar power.

A final summary was discussed on action items:

- AR will check with Leslie about dates for the trek
- NA will check with MHC to see if a trek is possible in November.
- LF suggested we schedule Ledges walk in February.
- AR will ask if CB can attend our October meeting.
- LF asked that if AR hears anything in another meeting, if he could share with the committee? AR said he would forward to them.
- LF mentioned the grant for trails at BBP and AR suggested the Friends need to get involved and LF said the BW committee should plan for a trail.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm. LD/RC 4-0. Next meeting scheduled for September 14, 2021 at 6:30pm.